



GRAND RIVER | SOLUTIONS

The Final Rule: Title IX Hearing in a New Era

About Us

Grand River Solutions provides Title IX, equity, and Clery Act consulting services. Together, our experts have decades of direct, on-campus experience at both small and large, public and private institutions. This practical expertise derived from years of hands-on experience enables our team to offer customized solutions unique to your educational institution's needs. Grand River has a suite of creative, cost-effective and compliant solutions to help schools meet their needs in innovative ways.

Today's Agenda

01

Regulatory Overview

05

The Hearing

02

The Infrastructure for Compliance

06

Evidentiary Issues

03

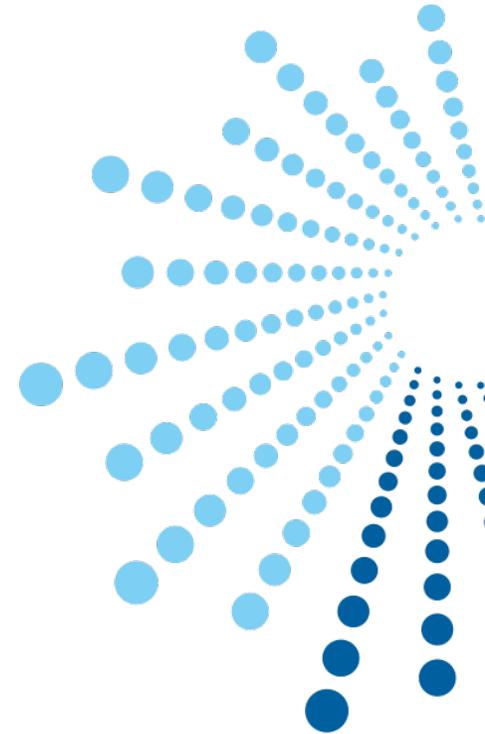
Roles and Responsibilities

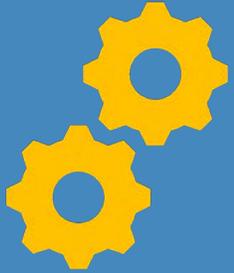
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Post-Hearing

04

Pre-Hearing Tasks



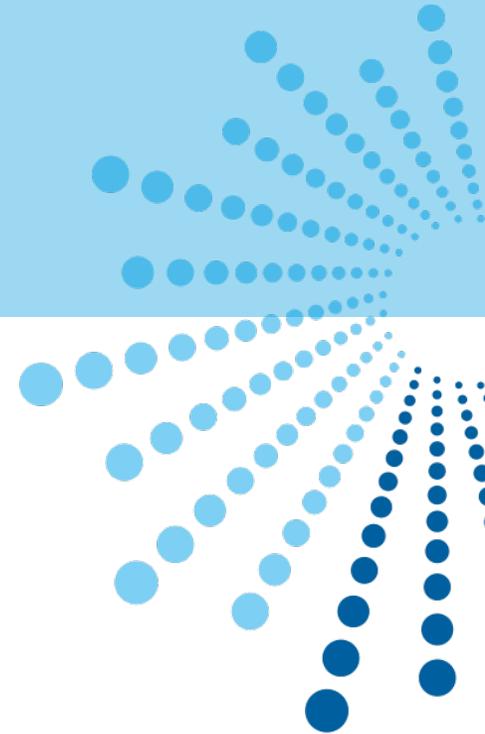


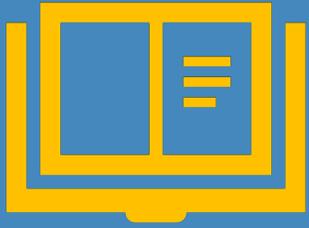
The Infrastructure for Compliance

An overview of what is required and what is needed
to comply

PART 1

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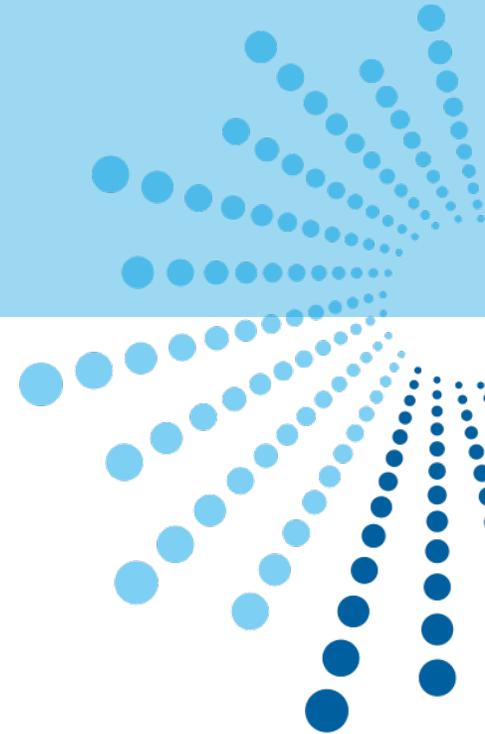


Regulatory Overview

Narrowed jurisdiction and expansive procedural requirements

01

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Procedural requirements for Investigations



NOTICE TO BOTH
PARTIES



EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY TO
PRESENT EVIDENCE



AN ADVISOR OF
CHOICE



WRITTEN
NOTIFICATION OF
MEETINGS, ETC.,
AND SUFFICIENT
TIME TO PREPARE



OPPORTUNITY TO
REVIEW ALL
EVIDENCE, AND 10
DAYS TO SUBMIT A
WRITTEN
RESPONSE TO THE
EVIDENCE PRIOR
TO COMPLETION
OF THE REPORT



REPORT
SUMMARIZING
RELEVANT
EVIDENCE AND 10
DAY REVIEW OF
REPORT PRIOR TO
HEARING

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Procedural Requirements for Hearings

Must be live, but can be conducted remotely

No Compelling participation

Standard of proof used may be preponderance of the evidence or clear and convincing; standard must be the same for student and employee matters

Cross examination must be permitted and must be conducted by advisor of choice or provided by the institution

Decision maker determines relevancy of questions and evidence offered

Exclusion of Evidence if no cross examination

Written decision must be issued that includes finding and sanction

What do we
need to do
all of this?



Space



Technology



Clear & Comprehensive Procedures



Staff

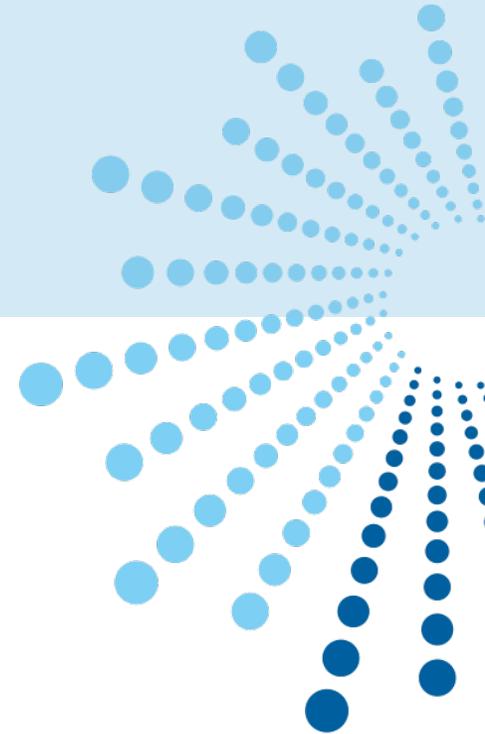


Expertise and Confidence



The Infrastructure for Compliance

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02

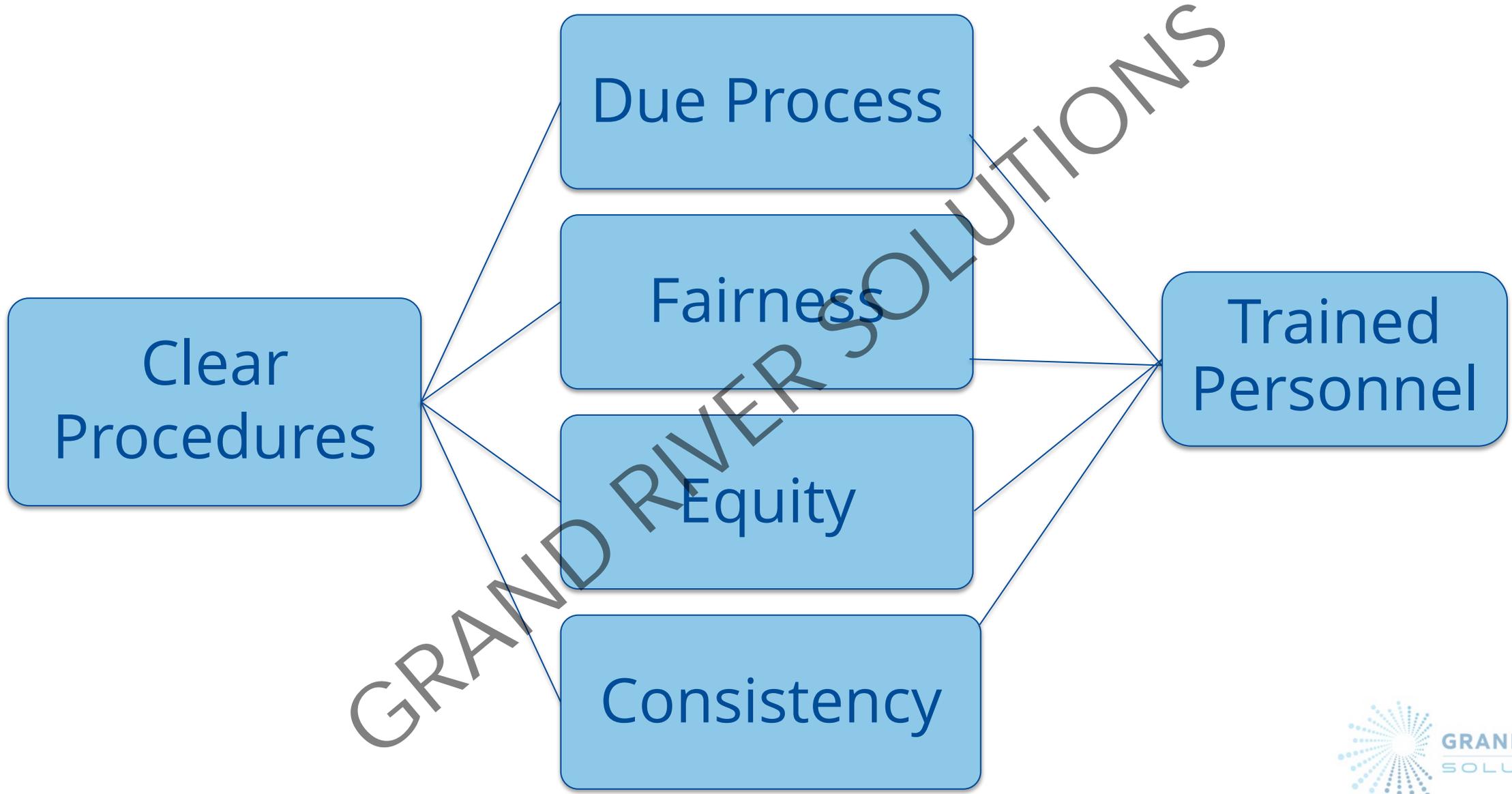
The Essential Elements of All Hearings

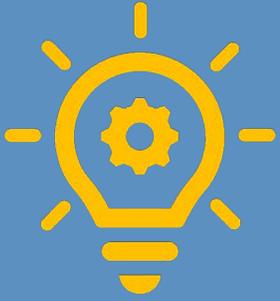
Due/Fair Process

Fair, Equitable, and Neutral

Consistency

Trauma Informed



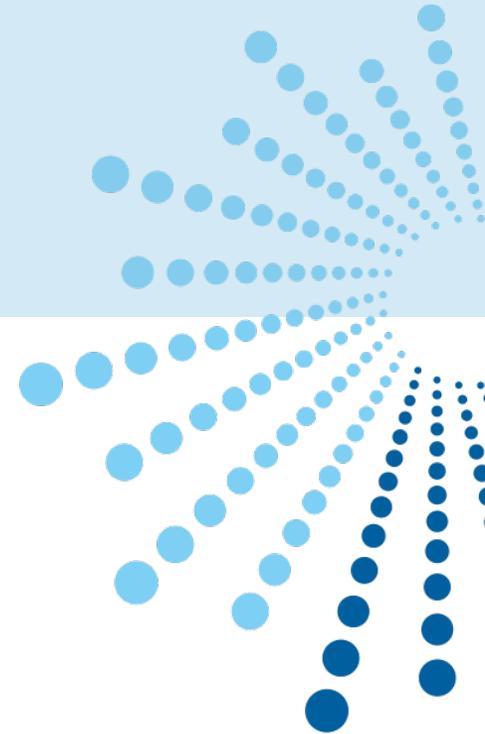


Roles and Responsibilities

People, Functions, and Impartiality

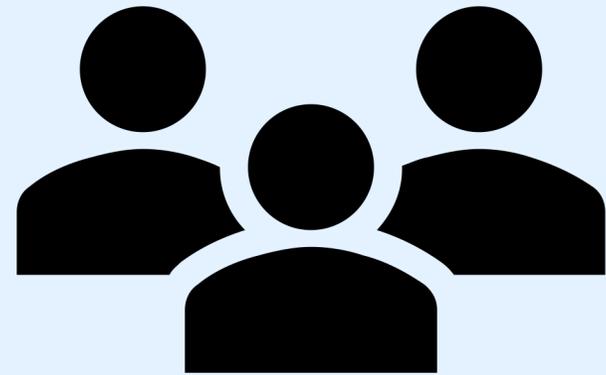
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Other Considerations Panel

- Number of panelists?
- Can you have a panel of one?
- Must finding be unanimous?
- Internal, external, or some combination?



The Players

Hearing Advisors

- Will conduct examination/cross
- Roles
- Training/Qualifications
- Communicating their role
- Enforcing their role



The Players

The Coordinator/Chair

- Oversees the Process
- Maintains order/decorum
- Supports the panel
- Makes ruling
- Voting or non-voting
- Writes the decision
- Trained

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The Players

The Decision Maker

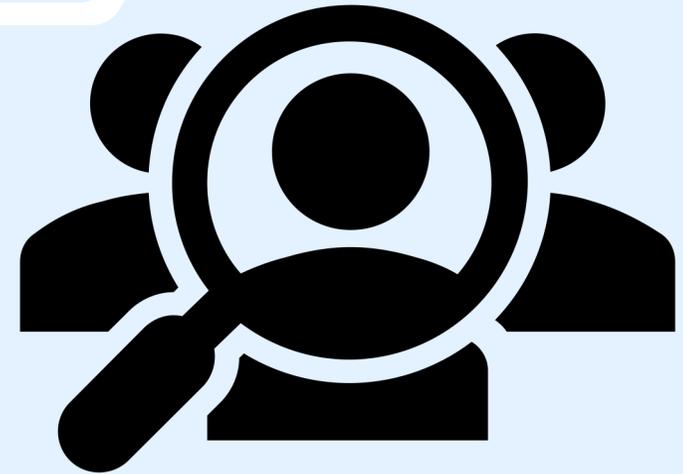
- May be Hearing Chair or on panel
- Determines whether policy was violated
- Cannot be investigator, Title IX Coordinator, or Appeals Officer



The Players

The Panel

- Fact finders
- Number of panelists?
- Composition?
- Makes the finding
- Unanimous?
- Pool?
- Recruitment and retention



Impartiality

WHAT DOES THIS *REALLY* MEAN?

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Logistics of a Hearing

Considerations for the Physical Space

- Room location and set-up
 - Entrances, exits, and proximity
- Privacy screens & partitions
- Technology
- Hallway control
- Space for extra visitors

Remote Participation

- **In whole or in part?**
- **Communication considerations**
 - Chat function or emails
- **Private consultation between parties and advisors**
 - Use of breakout rooms
 - Communication considerations
- **Practice runs**
- **Connectivity Considerations**

Other Considerations

Time Limits

Breaks

Formality,
Order and
Gate-Keeping

Handling
disruptions and
interruptions

Poor behavior?

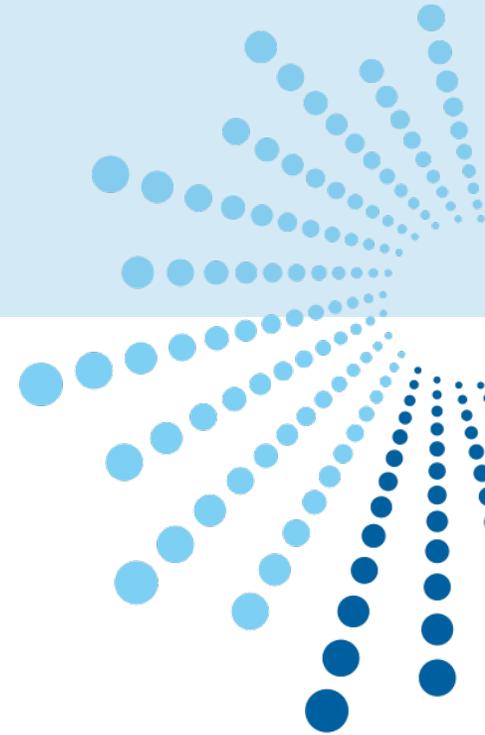
Recording



The Hearing

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PART 2



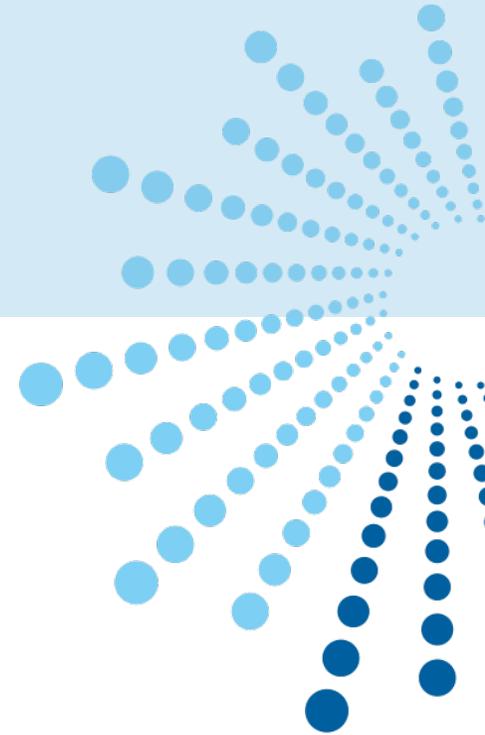


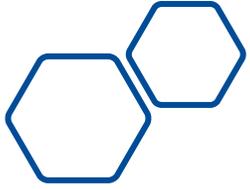
Pre-Hearing Tasks

What should be done in advance of the hearing

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Logistics

Scheduling participants

Reserving space

Provision of accommodations

Requests for delays; adjournments

Preparing the Parties and their Advisors, and the Witnesses

Pre-hearing instructions

- Via conference or meeting
- In writing

Set expectations

- Format
- Roles of the parties
- Participation
- Evidence
- Decorum
- Impact of not following rules

Preparing the Decision Maker(s)



Review evidence and report



Review applicable policy and procedures



Preliminary analysis of the evidence



Determine areas for further exploration



Develop questions of your own

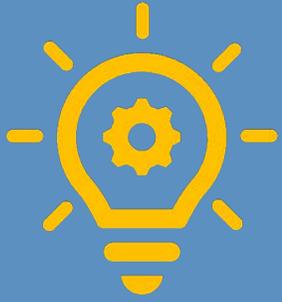


Anticipate the party's questions



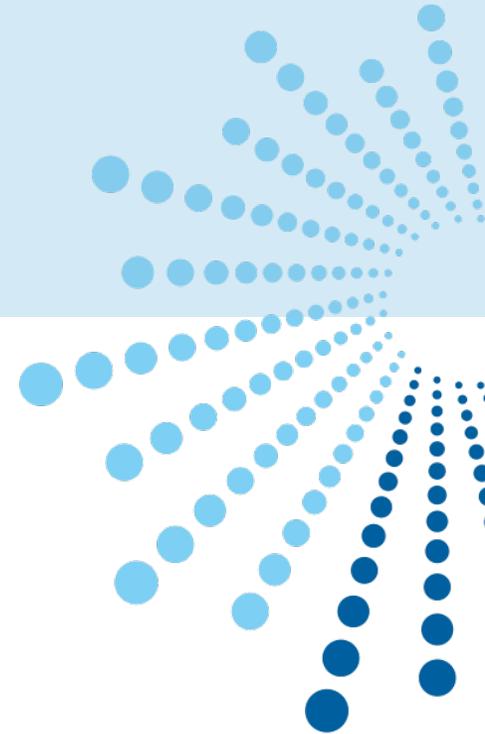
Anticipate challenges or issues





The Hearing

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Opening Instructions by the Chair

- Set the stage
- Reiterate charges
- Reiterate rules and expectations
- Reiterate logistics for the day

This should be scripted and used consistently.



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Cross Examination

Who does it?

- Must be conducted by the advisor
- If party does not appear or does not participate, advisor can appear and cross
- If party does not have an advisor, institution must provide one

Cross Examination

Role of the Decision Maker

- Rulings by Decision Maker required
 - Explanation only required where question not permitted

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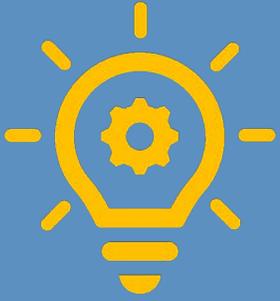
Cross Examination

Impact of Not Appearing

- Exclusion of all statements of that party
- Exception- DOE Blog
- What if a party or witness appears, but does not answer all questions

Common Challenges

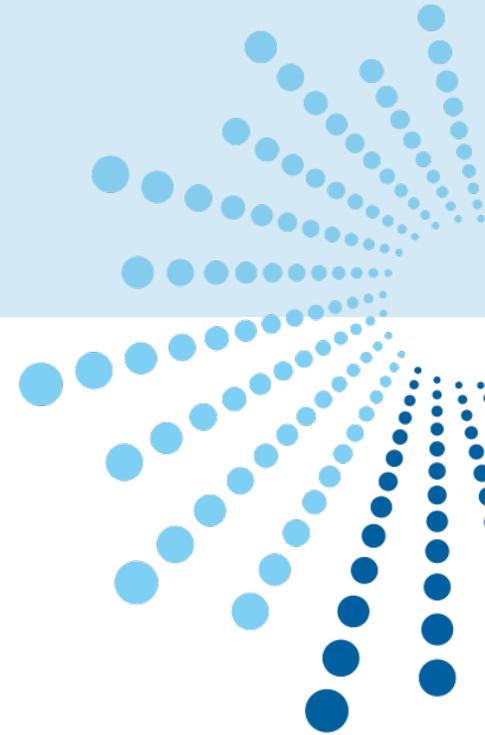
- Non-appearance by a party or witness
- Non-appearance by an advisor
- Party or witness appears but declines to answer some (or all) questions
- Disruptions
- Maintaining Decorum



Evidentiary Issues

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Evidence

“Something (including testimony, documents, tangible objects) that tends to prove or disprove the existence of an alleged fact; anything presented to the senses and offered to prove the existence or non-existence of a fact.”

Black’s Law Dictionary

Some Other Evidentiary Issues

- Character evidence
- Polygraph examinations
- SANE reports
- Articles from journals
- Past conduct of complainant, respondent
- Unlawfully obtained evidence

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EVIDENCE

Logical connection between the evidence and facts at issue

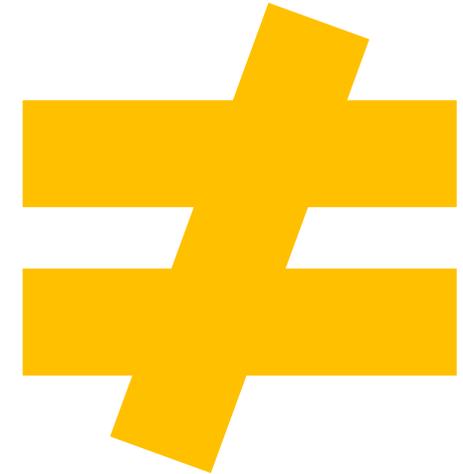
Assists in coming to the conclusion – it is “of consequence”

Tends to make a fact more or less probable than it would be without that evidence

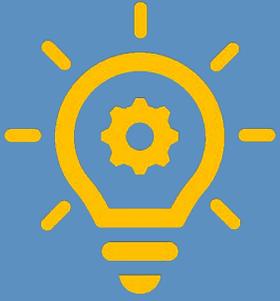


Relevance is Not...

- Strength of the evidence
- Believability of the evidence
- Based on type of evidence: circumstantial, direct
- Based on complicated rules of court



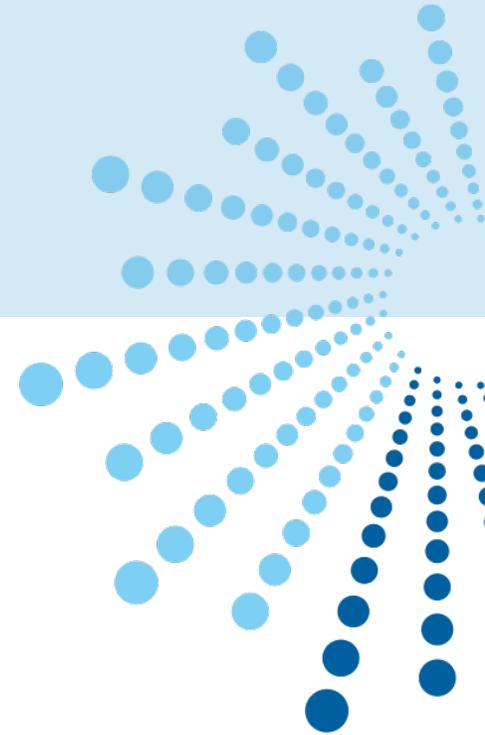
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After the Hearing

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Deliberations

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Weighing the Evidence & Making A Determination

- 1) Evaluate the evidence collected to determine what factually is more likely to have occurred, and then
- 2) Analyze whether the conduct that happened constitutes a violation of the school's policies

Policy Analysis

- Break down the policy into elements
- Organize the facts by the element to which they relate

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Preponderance of the Evidence

- More likely than not
- Does not mean 100% true or accurate
- A finding = There was sufficient reliable, credible evidence to support a finding, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the policy was violated



Final Report

- The allegations
- Description of all procedural steps
- Findings of fact
- Conclusion of application of facts to the policy
- Rationale for each allegation
- Sanctions and Remedies
- Procedure for appeal



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